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General Norstad

Joan Benda

Senator Humphrey

MISS BENDA OF JACKSON CROWNED CHERRY BLOSSOM PRINCESS IN WASHINGTON

Jackson Girl Calls Her Parents, Nearly Forgets to Tell She Won

A 20-year-old Jackson girl, Joan Benda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Benda, was crowned in Washington, D. C., Friday night as Minnesota's Cherry Blossom princess.

Miss Benda was chosen from nine Minnesota girls who are employed in government offices in the nation's capital. She will represent Minnesota in Washington's annual Cherry Blossom Festival this spring.

Three of the nine Minnesota candidates were from Jackson. The other two were the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank

(Penny) Matuska, Jackson, graduate of Jackson high school, and Sandra Ingebritson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Ingebritson, who live on a farm north of Alpha.

All three girls were 1961 graduates of Jackson high school. Joan Benda and Jeanne Matuska got jobs in Washington last May. Miss Ingebritson joined them later. All three work in different of

fices. Miss Benda is in the Civil Intelligence agency (CIA).

Miss Benda called her parents about 12:30 a.m. today. Mrs. Benda took the call and listened to Joan tell about the "wonderful dinner and ball — grandest thing I ever attended — with a contest for the Cherry Blossom queen."

"How did the contest come out?" asked Mrs. Benda.

"Oh, I won it, didn't I tell you? That's why I called," cried Miss Benda.

The event was the annual congressional reception and dinner of the Minnesota State Society in Washington.

Actual crowning was done by Gen. Lauris Norstad, former head of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey looking on.

Rudolph Benda is an employee of the Jackson county highway department. The Bendas have a son, Robert, living in Minneapolis.

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